



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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## ***News Advisory***

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## **Sensenbrenner Highlights PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #4**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today highlighted another one of the dozens of civil liberties safeguards included in the PATRIOT Act conference report approved last month by a bipartisan majority of the House and pending before the U.S. Senate.

### **PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #4 – Requiring Minimization Procedures to Limit Retention and Dissemination of Information Obtained About U.S. Persons From Section 215 Requests:**

Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act authorizes the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee of the Director to apply to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court for an order requiring the production of any tangible things (including books, records, papers, documents, and other items) for a foreign terrorism or spy investigation. This authority provides counter-terrorism and law enforcement officials a helpful and less invasive tool to both uncover what activities suspected terrorists or spies are engaged in and clear innocent people suspected of terrorism or spying.

In order to address concerns that information sought in a Section 215 order might be unnecessarily retained or disseminated, **the PATRIOT Act conference report requires that the Attorney General create minimization procedures for the retention and dissemination of this data and that the FBI use these procedures.** Specifically, the A.G. must establish minimization procedures to minimize the retention, and dissemination, of nonpublicly available information concerning non-consenting United States persons consistent with the need of the United States to obtain, produce, and disseminate foreign intelligence information. This civil liberty provision provides another safeguard to ensure information about innocent U.S. persons is not kept or used in nefarious or inappropriate ways. **This civil liberty safeguard is not contained in current law and was requested by Senator Leahy.**

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